

FRENCH HILL
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2018

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The Honorable Peter O'Rourke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420-0001

Dear Secretary O'Rourke:

I write today to inform you that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is this month's recipient of my Golden Fleece Award. I am awarding this to VA for mismanagement and the loss of over one million dollars in medical equipment across several VA facilities in Ohio.

According to recent reports by *WBNS-10TV*, VA medical facilities in Columbus, Chillicothe, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Dayton, Ohio combined managed to lose track of \$1.12 million worth of medical equipment between 2014 and 2017.^[1] Some items reported lost included a \$8,500 patient sign-in kiosk, a \$12,000 stretcher, and a \$28,000 bedside monitor.

Further, in some instances, these Ohio facilities lost the equipment after the VA spent nearly \$24 million in Ohio on technology designed to install tracking devices on the medical equipment. This is unacceptable, and VA must do better.

Our nation is currently over \$20 trillion in debt, and it is now more important than ever that our federal agencies act as good stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Phil Roe

[1] Haeberle, Bennett. "VA facilities across Ohio lost \$1 million worth of medical equipment." *WBNS-10TV*, July 3, 2018